

Howe urges Israel to 'test' PLO

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Israel to test the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), adding that "there is a chance for peace." "They [Israel] should be involved in the PLO conflict and they should be ready to see if there is a chance for peace," Howe told a news conference.

He was referring to PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat, who arrived in the day.

British Foreign Secretary, who is the PLO representative here in the day,

and the British Broadcasting Corporation at the time New York. Howe said an important role to play in efforts to settle the Palestinian problem. Any pressure that Britain can bring on Israel will be a new factor in settlement. An official North Yemeni statement said that Foreign, Saudi expressed satisfaction with the British stand on the Palestinian problem after his meeting with Howe.

(Continued on page 2)

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Israel submitted peace plan to U.S.

ABU DHABI (AP) — Israel has submitted a six-point MidEast peace plan to Washington accepting United States and Soviet participation in a Middle East peace conference, the state-run Al Ittihad newspaper reported Monday. "The plan shows that Israel is ready to have the Arab-Israeli negotiations under the patronage of the United States and the Soviet Union," the paper said. Quoting unidentified Egyptian diplomatic sources, the paper said the Israeli plan was presented to U.S. President-elect George Bush, with a copy delivered to Egypt.

Arafat confers with N. Yemeni president

SANA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat discussed Palestinian peace initiatives with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Monday, Radio Sanaa said. The radio said Arafat, who arrived earlier in the day, discussed attempts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Saudi diplomat blames terrorists for killing

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia's charge d'affaires in Thailand, in remarks published Monday, blamed terrorists for the murder of a Saudi diplomat in Bangkok last Wednesday. Abdullah Al Shabani told Aswaaq Al Awasat newspaper by telephone from London that the crime was politically motivated and not linked to a dispute with local labour gangs. Bangkok police have not ruled out a political motive for the shooting of Third Secretary Saleh Al Maliki. But they say they suspect Thai labour racketeers murdered Saleh, whose job included the processing of work permit applications.

Israel, China to step up contacts — Arens

PARIS (R) — Israel and China, which have never had diplomatic relations, have agreed to step up contacts through their United Nations delegations, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Monday. The decision was taken when Arens met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Paris, where both are attending an international conference on banning chemical weapons. "The Chinese foreign minister suggested that we use the Chinese and Israeli delegations of the United Nations in New York as a channel of communications between the countries," Arens told a news conference.

Howe, Prince Philip to attend Hirohito funeral

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip, and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will represent Britain at Japanese Emperor Hirohito's funeral next month, Buckingham Palace said. The government said Monday. Palace sources said the queen acted on the advice of her ministers in deciding who should represent the royal family at the Feb. 24 funeral (see story on page 5).

Cyprus peace talks enter second phase

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders met Monday for the second phase of United Nations-sponsored peace talks aimed at reunifying the island. President George Vassilios, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktaş, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic in northern Cyprus, conferred for one hour and 45 minutes. A brief U.N. statement said only that they agreed to meet again next Monday. It gave no details of Monday's discussions.

Armenian activist arrested in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — One of the founding members of a banned group pressing for the reunification of the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, with Armenia has been arrested, a senior Soviet legal official said. Viktor Ilyukhin told the Jan. 3 edition of the Azerbaijani Communist Party newspaper Bakinski Rabochi that Igor Muradyan had been recently arrested in Azerbaijan. The newspaper reached Moscow Monday. Officials in Yerevan, capital of Armenia, announced Monday that four more Armenian activists had been detained for five days in connection with public order offences.

Polisario: Talks should lead to settlement

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front said Monday its peace talks with King Hassan of Morocco last week should lead to a comprehensive agreement in the Western Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco since 1976. A Polisario statement said its executive committee, at a meeting Sunday, concluded that the meeting "opened the way to a qualitative development of the U.N. and Organization of African Unity process which must thus enter an active phase to reach a complete and definitive agreement." This would enable Morocco and the Polisario to go together to a referendum on self-determination for the people of the Western Sahara, the statement said.

Zaire unlikely to send Amin to Uganda

KAMPALA (R) — Zaire is unlikely to extradite former Ugandan leader Idi Amin to his homeland and wants him to return to Saudi Arabia, Zaire's ambassador to Uganda said Monday. Sources close to the Ugandan government said Sunday that a formal request for Amin's extradition from Zaire, which he entered illegally last week, will be presented soon by a special delegation. But the delegation, to be headed by the minister of state in the president's office, Kizza Besigye, has yet to be named.

Iran: 18 groups seek recognition

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday 18 political parties had so far applied for registration following a decision to expand political freedom. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohammadi as saying the parties included the Association for the Defense of Freedom, to which former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan belongs. Others include the Mujahideen-e-Khalq movement led by Lotfollah Meissami, who IRNA said was one of the first members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq organization which waged an armed struggle against the late Shah.

Holland opens dialogue with PLO

TUNIS (R) — The Netherlands Monday opened a formal dialogue in Tunis with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which said it hoped for a Dutch contribution to Middle East peace. "We expect Holland to play its role through the European community to achieve progress towards peace," PLO Political Department head Farouk Saddouki said after meeting Henry Wijeweerd, director of political affairs at the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

13 killed in Philippine grenade attack

MANILA (AP) — Assassins hurled a grenade into a crowd attending award ceremonies at a basketball tournament, killing at least 13 people and injuring 69 others in a remote area of the southern Philippines, the military said Monday. Lt. Anselmo Cabigan, a military spokesman, said the attack came at 11:30 p.m. Sunday at a basketball court in Esperanza, a town in Sultan Kudarat province, about 360 kilometers south of Manila. There was no indication who was responsible for the attack. Cabigan said.

Jordan Times

An independent English-language daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Libya criticises media reports

NICOSIA (R) — Libya Monday accused Western journalists of imprecise and biased reporting of a visit to the site of a factory which the United States says is a chemical weapons plant. The official JANA news agency complained that journalists reported seeing no evidence to back Libya's denial of the U.S. description of the facility which Tripoli says is a pharmaceutical factory. JANA also objected to journalists writing that there were artillery and other weapons at the site. "Saying that the buildings seen by the press... don't help to recognize their nature (and) objective," JANA quoted its local affairs commentator as saying. Foreign journalists taken Sunday to the site of the factory at Raqa, 96 kilometers southwest of Tripoli, were refused entry to the factory for security reasons. JANA said Libyans were gathering to stage a sit-in in the factory and that some of the buildings seen by journalists were used for assembling cars. It added that a town is being built at Raqa and suggested that Libya had a right to defend the factory following what it called U.S. threats to bomb it.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with the governors of the Kingdom's governorates in a meeting attended by (to the King's right) Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's advisors Adnan Abu Odeh and Amer Khammash and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani (to the King's left).

King, governors review course of development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday stressed the importance of developing public administration in the Kingdom's governorates in a way that is compatible with implementation of plans to decentralise development.

The King was speaking at a meeting with the governors of Amman, Balqa, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafrqa, Karak, Maan, and Tafileh at the Royal Court.

The meeting reviewed administrative and development affairs.

U.S. says it wants global chemical pact

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House Monday called on the Soviet Union's plan to start destroying chemical weapons only a partial answer to ending the menace posed by such arms.

"We welcome the Soviet Union's commitment to begin the destruction of chemical weapons but it is only a partial destruction, we think a small part actually," spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters at his daily news briefing.

Fitzwater, who was responding to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement Sunday at an international conference in Paris, said: "The real answer is to destroy all chemical weapons."

He said the United States had tabled a draft treaty at the Geneva disarmament conference four years ago which claims for a global ban on the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention and use of chemical weapons.

"Our position is that the appropriate channel for a reduction in chemical weapons is through an agreement at the international disarmament conference in Geneva," Fitzwater said.

While the statement by Shevardnadze was widely welcomed, concern was building at the Paris conference that efforts to reach a global ban on all future production of chemical weapons could stumble in the Middle East.

and the importance of increasing cooperation between the state organs and the governorates so as to facilitate implementation of development plans.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, King Hussein's special advisor Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani.

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The meeting reviewed administrative and development affairs.

43 killed in Boeing crash on busy British motorway

LOCKERBIE Dec. 21, killing 270 people.

"We are satisfied the cause was technical," an airline spokesman said.

The British Midland Boeing crashed on a grassy embankment alongside the main M1 north-south motorway as it tried to make an emergency landing at east Midlands Airport, 150 kilometres north of London. It was just about one kilometre short of the runway.

Cars pulled to the side of the six-lane highway as the aircraft buried toward them, but there were no reports of injury to motorists.

One engine was on fire, and Transport Secretary Paul Channon said it "certainly looks probable" there was a problem with the both engines. One of the engines was reported on fire as the plane came down.

Officials of the Scandinavian

(Continued on page 2)

Lebanese militia war turns 'horrific'

KFAR MELKI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Amal militia recaptured strategic villages in South Lebanon from their Hezbollah rivals Monday, and police reported "horrific atrocities" in the two-day battle.

Police said at least 80 people were killed and 200 wounded as the embattled villages changed hands in house-to-house combat between the mainstream Amal militia and the fundamentalist Hezbollah, since daylight Sunday.

But the airline, British Midland Airways, ruled out speculation by aviation experts that sabotage was to blame as was the case when a Pan American Boeing 747 crashed on the Scottish town of

43 killed in Boeing crash on busy British motorway

LOUGHBOROUGH, England (Agencies) — A Boeing jetliner skinned village rooftops and crashed near one of Britain's busiest motorways killing 43 people, but investigators said Monday they doubted sabotage brought down the plane.

The new Boeing 737-400, with 118 passengers and eight crew on a flight from London to Belfast in Northern Ireland, crashed Sunday night near the village of Kegworth in central England in Britain's second major airline disaster in a month.

Villagers who ran to the scene found corpses strewn on the roadway and some dazed passengers climbing out of the wreckage unaided.

Rescuers struggled until near dawn Monday to free remaining survivors, some of whom were

critically injured, from the wreck of the plane.

Some of the survivors spoke of seeing flames and flashes gush from one of the engines during the 34-minute flight from London.

Cars pulled to the side of the six-lane highway as the aircraft buried toward them, but there were no reports of injury to motorists.

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Officials of the Scandinavian

PLO expects serious superpower push for peace

By Najwa Najar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The main question that remains in prospects for peace in the Middle East is whether the concessions made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will lead to similar concessions by the other parties directly or indirectly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, among which the Middle East conflict figures high.

However, Bassam Abu Sharif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also sees that a solution is in the offing in the Middle East in the context of their commitment to the detente policy," said Abu Sharif in an interview with the Jordan Times.

"The superpowers have agreed to join efforts to solve the Middle East problems, and both see to the necessity of an international conference as a way to solve the problems," Abu Sharif said. "They also agree that Israel's occupation of Arab territories should end."

At the same time, Abu Sharif believes that the stands of the U.S. and Soviet Union towards the Middle East in the context of the prevailing superpower detente are of major significance in the Middle East peace process.

there are areas which the superpowers have not agreed on, most importantly the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to an independent state.

"The Soviet Union considers that a just solution cannot be attained unless the Palestinian people have their right to self-determination and an independent state, while the U.S. have not officially endorsed such a view," he said.

The PLO is working to encourage the U.S. to develop its position and stand in the Middle East and to recognise the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood, which will create a healthy atmosphere for economic development in the world community.

Naming one of the basic elements in attaining stability as political solutions to regional problems, he said: "The Soviet Union is committed to finding (regional) solutions with the Middle East topping its agenda."

The Soviet Union supports and defends not only the Palestinians' right to self-determination and statehood, but also strongly advocates international guaranteed secure and safe boundaries for all coun-

tries in the region.

"Our relationship and cooperation with the Soviet Union are on the highest level and we have all reasons to believe that the Soviet Union will throw its weight for a just solution in the Middle East," he added.

However, the U.S. will have to carry the major part of the burden since Washington's official policy is to do all that it can to attain peace in the Middle East, he notes. "Then it becomes the U.S. responsibility to remove the Israeli obstacle, as it is the only obstacle confronting peace in the Middle East."

"We believe that it is the U.S. responsibility to help bring an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab land since it (the U.S.) has, beyond doubt, the ability to use its influence on the Israeli government to change (Israel's) attitude — the rejectionist, expansionist policy — and to respond positively to peace offers," Abu Sharif asserted.

(Continued on page 2)

Afghan rebels call off Soviet talks

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan rebel leaders refused Monday to resume direct talks with the Soviet Union, contending Moscow was attempting to secure a place for its communist allies in a post-war government.

The rebels' spokesman said the decision meant fighting was likely to continue beyond Feb. 15, the date by which the Soviet Union agreed last year to withdraw its troops.

Rebel leaders ended talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov Saturday after the two sides reached an impasse over the composition of a post-war Afghan government. At the time, rebel leaders said they were prepared to continue the talks.

But Monday, the spokesman for the U.S.-backed guerrillas based in Pakistan, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, said the rebel alliance had decided to break off its talks with the Soviets.

"Because the Soviets use threats, look for war rather than peace, and disrespect Afghans' right of self-determination, we

believe that negotiations are unproductive and unnecessary," he said.

At a news conference Saturday, Vorontsov told reporters that Moscow would find a way to support its allies in Kabul if there was no broad-based government that included communists in place after Feb. 15.

Rebels, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government for 10 years, are opposed to allowing the communists to participate in a post-war Afghan government.

The Soviets have threatened that if their terms are not accepted they will supply new weapons, not deployed before, to (Afghan President) Najibullah's regime after the withdrawal.

Mojaddidi said any future talks would have to be about war reparations and the return of prisoners.

Vorontsov was told: "We can only order Mujahedeen not to attack your withdrawing troops. We can give you peace... to pass."

The Soviet official said Moscow would meet the Feb. 15 withdrawal deadline unless departing Soviet soldiers are attacked by guerrillas.

Mojaddidi said any future talks would have to be about war reparations and the return of prisoners.

Vorontsov, who is also ambassador to Afghanistan, has travelled to Saudi Arabia, Italy, Iran and Pakistan during the past month with Moscow's plan to set up a broadly-based Afghan government after the withdrawal.

Moscow insists on a role for Najibullah's party. The plan would also include a part for former King Zahir Shah, 74, ex-

iled in Rome since his overthrow in a 1973 coup.

"Any solution will be according to the will of the Afghan people, it is not for them or any other country to decide," Mojaddidi told reporters.

He said the Soviets, who intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979, would have to pay for the destruction caused by the war and return Mujahedeen prisoners, who the rebels say number 40,000.

The rebels were also angered by Vorontsov's comment Saturday that any more killing in the war would be on their conscience because they had not reciprocated Kabul's unilateral ceasefire of Jan. 1.

"A ceasefire is not possible because the cause of the war has not been removed, the forced existence of the Russians and the puppet regime," Mojaddidi told the news conference.

"He said the Mujahedeen had killed many Soviet soldiers, but the Soviets had killed, captured and tortured many more, including women and children,

and forced millions into exile. "Has all this been forgotten?" asked Mojaddidi.

Mohammad Karim Khalil, representative of Afghan rebels based in Iran who joined the talks with Vorontsov, told the news conference he would remain in Pakistan this week to discuss the council with other guerrilla leaders.

Both the Iran- and Pakistan-based rebels have agreed that the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) of Najibullah can play no part in a post-war government.

About three million Afghan war refugees live in Pakistan and another two million in Iran. The Iran-based rebel fighters belong to the same sect of Islam practised by most Iranians.

About 17 per cent of Afghanistan's 15 million people are Shiites while 80 per cent belong to the Sunni sect. The Pakistan-based rebels are Sunnis.

Mojaddidi said the rebels' decision to end the talks with the Soviets means fighting is likely to continue beyond Feb. 15.



Afghan rebel leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi reads out from a paper and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov (right) listens intently at a round table in Islamabad Friday. Mojaddidi announced Monday the rebels were breaking off talks with the Soviet Union.

N. Yemen urges Britain to meet peace obligation

SANA (R) — North Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani told Britain Sunday it had a special obligation to help bring about Palestinian independence.

Iryani was speaking at a dinner in honour of British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Howe, coming to the end of a 10-day tour of the Gulf and the Horn of Africa, arrived earlier from Oman for the first visit to this country by a British cabinet minister.

British officials said Iryani welcomed calls made by Howe during his tour for Israel to respond positively to peace overtures by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Iryani said in his speech it was time for the world to declare an end to the spilling of Palestinian blood.

Referring to Britain's role in the creation of Israel in 1948, he added: "Her Majesty's government has a very special moral obligation to lead the Palestinians to self-determination and indepen-

dence."

"I hope the people of Israel, who have themselves known war and persecution and suffering, will see — and seize — the chance to make peace," Howe said.

"You have much to lose by the prolongation of the present violence and hostility," he said, referring to Israel. "You have everything to gain from peace — most of all, your goal of a secure existence behind internationally recognised frontiers."

Earlier, the two foreign ministers signed agreements under which Britain will provide North Yemen with £30 million (\$54 million) in grants and low-interest loans to finance a power link from the Red Sea to Sanaa.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan water strike continues

Specter in Damascus

KHARTOUM (AP) — Women and children hauled water to their homes in tin cans, buckets and tanks attached to donkeys Monday as a strike by workers of the Sudanese Rural Waters Corporation entered its third day. Meanwhile, editorial and other employees of the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) cut short a strike on the government's promise to implement their administrative demands within two weeks. The stoppage also began Saturday and was planned to last a week. The agency said Abd al-Nour, head of parliament's culture and information committee, had given SUNA workers a "written promise" that their demands would be fulfilled. Negotiations to end the strike at the government-owned water works were less successful. The strike is affecting more than a million Sudanese, in Khartoum's northern industrial area and the western Sudan regions of Kordofan and Darfur as well as some eastern towns like Gedaref and Kassala.

Gorbachev should study Islam'

NICOSIA (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to ask Iran for a new-left ideology that would replace communism, the Islamic Republic News Agency said Sunday. The agency was reporting the full text of a message sent by the ageing revolutionary patriarch to Gorbachev last week. "I expressly declare that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the greatest and most powerful base in the world of Islam can easily fill the ideological vacuum of your regime," IRNA quoted the message as saying.

Khomeini's special envoy, Ayatollah Javad Amoli, travelled to Moscow Friday at the head of a mission to deliver the message to Gorbachev. The Iranian patriarch praised Gorbachev for his decision to allow more religious freedom in the Soviet Union, saying this proved he had turned his back on communism, "a bankrupt ideology," the agency said. But he warned the Soviet leader to avoid "the green garden" of Western capitalism.

Storm claims 2 Bahrain fishermen

BAHRAIN (R) — Two Bahraini fishermen drowned and four were missing after storms wrecked their boats in the Gulf, coastguards said Monday. They said two bodies were found inside a fibreglass boat on a coral reef five miles offshore. Helicopters and patrol boats were searching for a third person from the vessel. Three other fishermen missing since Dec. 29 have been presumed dead after their boat washed ashore in Otar last week, the coastguards said.

Gulf Air to resume Iraq flights

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air said Monday it would resume flights to Iraq from Feb. 1, ending an eight-year break caused by the Gulf war. Officials of the airline, owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, said three flights a week to Baghdad were scheduled, one each from Doha, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. The airline is awaiting Iranian approval for two flights a week to Bandar Abbas and four to Shiraz starting on the same date, the officials said. They did not say where the flights would originate.

Iran begins rebuilding

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has begun rebuilding homes and factories in western regions which suffered most damage in the war with Iraq, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. In a report indicating Iranian confidence that hostilities are really over, a deputy of Prime Minister Hussein Musavi was quoted as saying more than 50 per cent of funds currently earmarked for reconstruction will be spent on rebuilding war-destroyed urban and commercial premises. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that much of the rebuilding will take place in the Khuzestan, Ilam and Bakhtaran provinces, all frontline provinces with Iraq which sustained heavy damage in the war. The government announced last month that it has allotted more than \$10 billion for reconstruction during the current Iranian year which ends March 21. More than \$650 million of that amount will go toward rebuilding and renovating residential and educational, cultural and sports facilities, IRNA said. That sum, however, is only a fraction of the amount needed to rebuild the Iranian economy, estimated by foreign analysts at between \$300 and \$500 billion.

No concessions to Iran — Iraq

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said Sunday his country would not concede any ground in its stalled peace negotiations with Iran.

"We have no intentions for any concessions... we will not change our policies (in this respect) under any framework or threat and we are alert to every move," he told a news conference.

Ramadan, who earlier held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, was replying to a question on a reported buildup of Iranian troops on the border since Baghdad and Tehran agreed to a ceasefire last August. Iran has denied the reports.

The two countries, which were at war for eight years, have made little progress in peace negotiations.

"How can you expect progress when Iranian leaders are not united behind peace... the Iranians are sending unclear signals on whether they really want peace," he said.

Asked about the government's plans for Iraq's post-war reconstruction, Ramadan indicated that non-Arab investors would not be welcome to participate.

"Iraq must depend first on its own capabilities, and then on Arab projects and investment. As for foreign investments and banks, we, as a rule, do not like foreign investments in our country."

"Foreign investment is rejected," Ramadan said, adding that if a certain project necessitated foreign participation, "we will study the issue."

Speaking on a multitude of issues, Ramadan said that Iraq had officially asked at the Arab summit in Nov. 1987 that Egypt's membership be reinstated in the Arab League. He said he hoped Egypt would be invited to attend the next Arab summit.

"We have some contacts which showed support for Egypt's return to the league and this will be discussed in the first session of the next Arab summit, so that

Egypt can resume its contribution to the league after the first session of the summit," Ramadan said.

No definite date has been set for the next Arab summit, although it is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia.

Ramadan lauded his meetings with Mubarak and Prime Minister Atef Sedki. Ramadan was bere to attend the second meeting of the semi-annual higher committee between Egypt and Iraq.

Hadithy said last year that President Hussein had allocated a special fund of \$5 billion to rebuild Basra, Iraq's second city and previously its major port.

Basra international airport was opened immediately after the ceasefire was announced.

Iran said Monday that resuming the stalled peace talks with Iraq was futile without guarantees that Iraq will withdraw its troops from Iranian territory seized during the war.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying that Baghdad has to agree to a pullback if any progress is to be made.

It said Velayati made the comments in an interview in Paris, where he is attending a confer-

ence aimed at bolstering efforts to enforce a 1925 Geneva accord outlawing chemical weapons.

Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz met separately in Paris with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the radio said.

The radio commentary was the strongest indication yet that Iran may not go back to the negotiating table without guarantees that the next round of talks will achieve concrete results.

The radio said that the U.N. Security Council and all the countries which support its ceasefire resolution... "must... not expect Iran to be optimistic about the talks until Iraq still refuses to withdraw from Iranian territory."

Edward Madigan, who left Amman Sunday night after a three-day visit, believes Bush will be more interested in a solution to the Middle East problems than ex-President Ronald Reagan.

He said the policy that Bush would be following has not been determined yet. The Bush administration "will want to talk to a number of people first," he said. Madigan is certain that both Bush and his secretary of state nominee James Baker "are going to be interested in any opportunity (for peace in the region) which presents itself."

Madigan said the U.S. Congress supports peace, "but I do not know in what form," since many congressmen are still wary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He referred to a recent statement made by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Radio Monte Carlo warning that any Palestinian calling for a truce in the year-long intifada in the occupied territories was being met by bullets. "This needs to be clarified or the

instability will continue," Madigan said.

Asked how the U.S. navy's downing of two Libyan planes last week would contribute to "stability," Madigan sought to justify the incident by saying that a video tape, presented to the United Nations Security Council, showed that the Libyan planes were armed and that the U.S. planes took five separate manoeuvres to avoid them. "But they (Libyan planes) continued to pursue (the American planes)," he said.

He says that he realises there is a "controversy" over the incident and "it is very unfortunate that something like this has happened."

Referring also to the recent bombing of a Pan Am airliner, he added: "I hope we can put this behind us and work towards peace."

Madigan was unable to comment on the U.S. threats to attack an alleged Libyan chemical weapons factory. "I have no other information than that in the media," he said.

Madigan, who was accompanied by two other Republican congressmen, left for Egypt.

During the visit, they were received by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

43 killed in Boeing crash

(Continued from page 1)

Airlines System (SAS), a part owner of British Midland Airways, said Monday the company had been on a worldwide security alert triggered by a threat.

The bomb threat, relayed from Hungarian police through Interpol eight days ago, was directed against SAS carriers or their subsidiary airlines and hotels.

John Herbert, spokesman for the Stockholm-based airline, said to link was suspected between the threat and Sunday's fatal crash.

British Midlands sold 24.9 per cent of its stocks to SAS in December. SAS, which is half owned by the government of Norway, Denmark and Sweden, paid \$45 million.

Witnesses of the crash and a

radio operator who monitored pilot Kevin Hunt's final exchanges with air traffic control said both engines appeared to have failed.

Hunt, a 25-year veteran, was among the badly injured survivors. The final survivor, a woman, was pulled out from a tangle of metal and crushed seats more than seven hours after the crash.

The plane's two giant wings, heavily loaded with fuel, remained virtually intact. The severed tail section of Flight BD92 crashed in woodland alongside the highway, surrounded by wreckage from the severed centre and nose sections. The undercarriage was strewn over the highway, which remained closed to traffic.

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Europarliment speaker due here Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the European Parliament Sir Henry Plumbler is due here Wednesday on a three day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of Jordanian government officials.

Sir Henry will discuss with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi the latest developments in the Palestine problem and current efforts to convene an international peace conference.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Sir Henry and his accompanying delegation from the European Parliament will arrive in Amman from the occupied Arab territories.

7 European MPs to arrive

Meanwhile another group of parliamentarians from seven European nations are due here Wednesday in the course of a Middle East region tour, for

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI CONDOLES JAPANESE ENVOY: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi called at the Japanese embassy Monday and offered his condolences and those of the Senate members on the death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. The embassy was visited Sunday night by a representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on a similar mission. Michael Hamarneb, director of the Crown Prince's office, conveyed condolences by the Crown Prince to the government and people of Japan and signed a condolences register at the embassy. (Petra)

KHAYYAT IN BAGHDAD: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat arrived in Baghdad Monday to participate in the second conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs which begins Tuesday. (Petra)

SERVICES FOR PILGRIMS: The Ma'an municipality is currently undertaking necessary arrangements to facilitate pilgrimage services during the pilgrims' trip to Mecca. The Ma'an mayor said a committee has been formed to give all necessary aid to pilgrims. (Petra)

KHATIB VISITS MA'AN: Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Hisam Khath Monday visited Ma'an Governorate and inspected Jordan Electricity Authority offices in Ma'an, Shobak, and Wadi Mousa in the wake of the snowfall in the region during late December. He also discussed with the director of the Ma'an Electricity Department and department officials the damages which the electric lines sustained. The minister has begun a tour covering all the southern governorates and districts. (Petra)

TURKISH AIDE VISITS KARAK: Visiting Deputy Director of Religious Affairs in Turkey Salihdin Al Yaziji and his accompanying delegation visited the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad at Mu'ta and Mazar districts in Karak Monday. They were briefed by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs officials on the historic background of the region. (Petra)

KUWAITI TEAM VISITS RJGC: A group of students from Kuwait, Monday, called at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) in Amman and were briefed on its work and programmes. The visitors, from the vocational and applied sciences college in Kuwait also toured the centre's divisions and inspected the various equipment used in making maps. (Petra)

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY: A number of Jordanian national products have been exempted from customs duty upon entering countries of the Arab League, according to Asem Hindawi, director of economic cooperation in the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Hindawi, who was speaking upon returning from a meeting at Tunis by the Arab Economic and Social Council, said that the council's decision enables products to enter other Arab states without restrictions. (Petra)

Ministry to ration artesian well water

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will call a meeting for all owners of artesian wells in the coming week to discuss licences for allowing them to exploit underground water in accordance with a rationalised plan, Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakqiqan said Monday.

He said that owners of wells will be allowed to pump out a fixed amount of water from the wells every year and they will be required to install metres on their wells to maintain control over the allowed quantity to be pumped by each.

The minister was speaking at a meeting attended by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.

* The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salim Al Madlunghen and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition entitled "New Museum Buildings in the Federal Republic of Germany" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.

* A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sebe' and Nabil Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

* A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Al'a Centre, Hittit Refugee Camp.

FILMS

* A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain (part 2) at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

* A German film entitled "Die Moral der Ruth Halbfass" (English-subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin Monday receives a two-member International Labour Organi-

sation team currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Israel seeks to uproot Arabs from their land, Dudin tells ILO team

AMMAN (Petra) — A two member team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had a meeting here Monday with Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin to discuss the situation in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and Israel's discriminatory measures against Arab workers under its rule.

Dudin told the team that Israel's actions against Arab workers had their adverse effects on Arab institutions and Arab workers' livelihoods.

"Over the past two decades Israel has adopted an official policy designed to uproot the Palestinian people from their homeland, to destroy the Palestinian people's social and economic infrastructure and obliterate Arab culture," the minister said at the meeting.

The Israeli, he noted, pursue their repressive policies with the aim of evicting the Arabs and settling Jews in their place. Dudin briefed the team on Israel's violations of international laws, hu-

man rights and the ILO principles.

Dudin called on the ILO to intervene and put an end to Israel's aggressive measures against the Arab workers and its continued violations of human rights.

The two member team, which arrived in Amman Sunday evening, will be going to Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and the occupied Arab territories in the course of their present tour.

Abu Qoura cables support for Paris conference objectives

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura Monday sent a cable to the chairman of the Paris international conference on chemical weapons expressing support for its objectives and hopes for its success.

Abu Qoura who is also president of the standing commission of the Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies under the umbrella of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said that the conferees will adopt resolutions leading to the imposition of a total ban on the production and use of chemical weapons.

Jordan is represented at the Paris conference by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who said that chemical weapons threatened the Arab World.

Qasem said in a statement before he left Amman for the meeting in Paris, that the best way to stop the spread of chemical weapons in the Middle East was to pursue efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to turn the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war into a lasting peace.

Second Arab strategic conference discusses papers by Jordanian experts

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Working papers by Jordanian specialists were reviewed by delegates to the second Arab Strategic conference here Monday.

One of the papers presented by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani dealt with electronic industry in Jordan.

The paper, read out on Anani's behalf by Dr. Adnan Badran, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, referred to the future challenges for the Kingdom in the field of science.

The paper said that electronic industries in Jordan are very limited at present centering on the manufacture of electric lifts, but currently training is continuing to acquire a generation of skilled technicians and scientists working in various industrial fields.

Another paper was presented by Dr. Hussein Omar Touqan from the University of Jordan's Strategic Studies Centre, dealing with the technological and educational status in the Arab World and Israel. The paper also covered Arab war industries and military and defence expenditure.

Dr. Fawzi Gharabeib, the university's vice-president, presented a working paper on the demographic dimension and its relation to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper called on the Arab World to work out a population strategy for the occupied Arab territories with a view to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, and aborting Zionist plans to evacuate Palestine from its indigenous population.

The paper also covered Israel's strategy of evicting Arab inhabitants and its on-going repressive

measures against the Arab population and its establishment of Jewish settlements, as well as expansionist policies in the Arab areas.

Israel, the paper said, is trying to make the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip a permanent market for its own industrial products. The paper also dealt with the on-going uprising and its objectives.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who is attending the conference, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that studies being reviewed at the meetings cover the Arab World's military, educational, economic, demographic and social conditions.

The first strategic conference, which was held in Amman last year, dealt with the Arab Order and the future challenges, Majali said. He voiced hope that the present conference will come up with recommendations and resolutions to help promote conditions in the Arab World.

The minister was briefed by Abunda on the work of the National Meteorology Centre which will commence operations shortly, providing weather forecasts six days in advance.

Last month, the department announced the completion of a

AACO team to discuss formation of company to finance aircraft purchase

AMMAN (J.T.) — A steering committee formed by the Arab Air Carriers' Organisation (AACO) meets here Tuesday to discuss the formation of a pan-Arab company that will take charge of financing the purchase and leasing of aircraft.

The committee which comprises chairmen of the boards of directors of Royal Jordanian (RJ), Kuwait Airways and the Morocco Air Lines as well as the AACO's secretary general, will review a final report by a consultative commission that prepared a feasibility study on the project which is estimated to cost \$200 million.

In a statement at a press conference last month RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour called for coordination and integration among Arab airlines in the East Mediterranean region, in order to counter the prospective challenge of Europe's integrated carriers in 1992.

"The 1992 wind of change is already blowing and it is very challenging for the Arabs. Competition is tough," Ghandour said on the occasion of RJ's 25th anniversary.

Ghandour in fact echoed his own call on Arab airlines made back in April 1988 when he advocated the formation of a united Arab airline that can cater to the needs of all Arab countries' air transportation needs, and at the

same time deal with a real challenge represented in the merger of American and European airlines.

Ghandour told a similar AACO meeting then that Arab airlines have started adopting a unified set of specifications, which is considered as a first step leading towards a more comprehensive cooperation in air transport operations.

Following up on last month's press conference, it was later announced that contacts were underway between representatives of the national air carriers of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait to form an Arab federation for air transport.

Director of the Iraqi Airways Noureddin Saifi Hammad said that representatives of the three airlines will meet later in January in Baghdad to discuss the proposed federation for which the four airlines will serve as a nucleus.

Once established, flights between the contracting countries will be considered as internal flights and as such, the flight rates will be lower than current flight rates.



Department of Meteorology Director Ali Abunda Monday briefs Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan on the operations of his department (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan inspects operations at meteorological department

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Monday called at the Department of Meteorology and was briefed by its director Ali Abunda.

The minister said that accurate information about the weather conditions was of paramount importance for citizens, farmers and organisations.

The minister was briefed by Abunda on the work of the National Meteorological Centre which will commence operations shortly, providing weather forecasts six days in advance.

Last month, the department announced the completion of a

building that would serve as a national centre, complete with electronic devices which have already been installed and routed to specialised weather channels that are linked to satellites.

Abunda said that the centre cost nearly JD 500,000 of which nearly JD 200,000 came in the form of equipment and machines from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The WMO has also provided the centre with radar system which can discover storms and clouds in any part of Jordan working within a 200-kilometre radius, and will send specialists to supervise the operations and train local staff.

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Three cheers for the pioneer

BY DECLARING before the on-going Paris conference on chemical weapons that it has decided to scrap all its chemical weapons, the Soviet Union has earned for itself the enviable status of being among the strongest supporters of real disarmament. Moscow has thus set new standards in disarmament and established fresh precedents for the elimination of mass destructive weapons. President Mikhail Gorbachev's hands can be seen and felt in this historic decision in the annals of disarmament. In the final analysis the Soviet leader is becoming a true blessing to humanity and a breath of fresh air in international relations. By any standards, President Gorbachev deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for 1989.

Now it is up to the other countries of the world, which manufacture, possess and intend to use chemical weapons, to respond to the herculean Soviet challenge in a way that leaves no doubt that their participation at the Paris conference on the control and elimination of the threat of poison gases is more than ceremonial and political gambit. The Soviets in effect are calling the bluff of all the other nations of the world which profess pious concern about Libya's alleged manufacture of chemical weapons while they keep on hoarding their poison gases for possible use against their adversaries. Accordingly, unless the international community stands up to the Soviet challenge and accepts to reciprocate by surgically removing existing loopholes in the 1925 Geneva protocol against the first use of chemical weapons by outlawing the possession and production of chemical weapons as well, the quest for banning chemical weapons would be undermined.

Meanwhile, humanity can sigh with relief that a super-power has broken the cycle of circumventing the intent and purposes of the 1925 Geneva protocol. From the bottom of our hearts, we solemnly say: Three cheers to the Soviet Union for the giant leap forward that it has taken along the path of actual elimination of mass destruction systems of weapons.

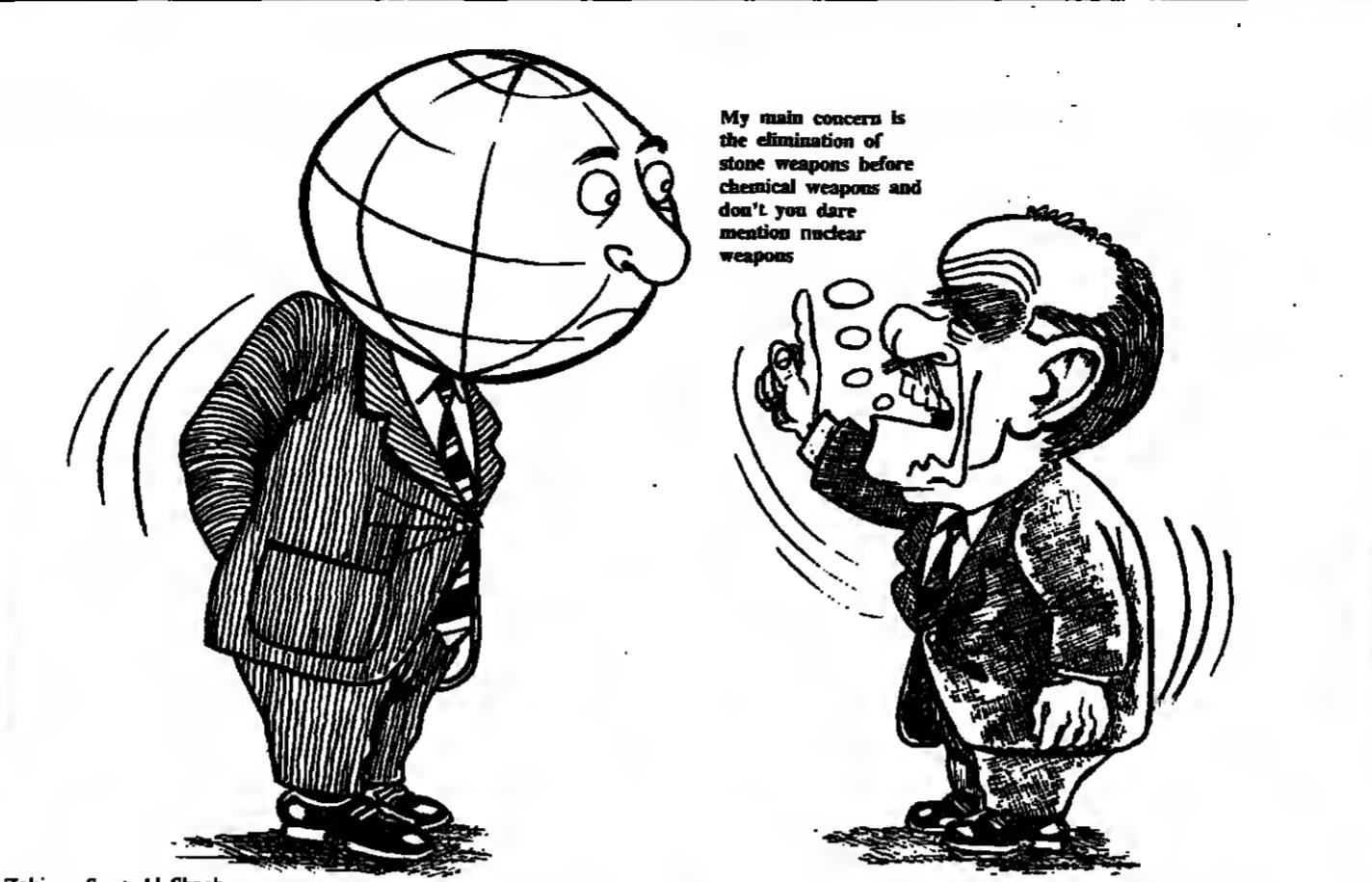
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Monday discussed the Jordanian-Palestinian relations which it said are based on mutual confidence and bolstered by the latest talks held in Amman. The Palestine question indeed remains an issue for all Jordanians and it was quite natural that the King's talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat should be successful and fruitful, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian leadership is quite aware of the dangers inherent in the Zionist conspiracies in Palestine and Israel's expansionist plans in the Arab region as a whole and for this leadership the problems of Palestine and Jerusalem have become central issues and the axis of Jordan's political stance. The paper said that the hoisting of the Palestinian flag over the Palestine embassy in Amman came as a crowning of the Jordanian-Palestinian fruitful march and close and progressive cooperation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily also comments on the very strong relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian leadership which he says are bound to further bolster ties between the united people. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that it is true that the two sides had had their differences in the past but that was quite natural for any mutual relationship between two sides vying to offer the best services for their people. Even within the same community one can feel differences of views and disputes over a variety of topics relevant to national interest, the writer points out. He says that the crowning of the mutual endeavours with total agreement as emerged at the conclusion of the Amman meetings is a source of pride and delight for friends and can only be a source of anger for common enemies. The twin people of Jordan and Palestine, the writer adds, stand close together in one trench confronting all challenges and there is no doubt that Jordan will continue to serve as the strategic depth for Palestinians in their long march for freedom.

Al Dastour daily tackled the same topic describing the King-Arafat talks in Amman as representing a symbol of unity between the peoples of Palestine and Jordan, guided by the common national interest. The paper said that the decision to establish a Palestinian embassy in Amman was another step by Jordan to show sincere support for the PLO and its efforts to regain the rights of the Palestinian people and to enhance their identity. There is no doubt that the fast moving developments in the Palestine problem, especially the escalation in the uprising and the PLO's recognition of the U.N. Security Council resolutions were instrumental in cementing the mutual and successful cooperation, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship now rests on very firm grounds, enhanced by mutual confidence and true solidarity.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's statements at the press conference Sunday in which he paid tribute to Jordan for its unwavering support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights. Arafat was particularly supportive of Jordan's decision last July to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, a step that paved the way for the PLO to shoulder its responsibility at the international level. The paper described continued Jordanian backing for the PLO as the most essential reason behind the PLO's successes and one that shows a true meaning of solidarity among brothers.



Soviet foreign aid shows new trends

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have led to a perception in the USSR and Eastern Europe of an interdependent world — a contrast with the previous view of a world divided into two systems. It was as a result of this change that the Eastern Bloc signed the final act of UNCTAD VII which explicitly mentions the necessity of enhanced resource flows from the Socialist countries.

By Jurgen Bartsch

PARIS — According to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates, Soviet aid has risen to almost double its share in world official development assistance (ODA) between 1980 and 1986, from 5 per cent to 9 per cent.

With \$4.2 billion of net ODA disbursements the USSR was the fourth largest donor in 1986. With the figure cited by the Soviet Union at UNCTAD VII in Geneva in July 1987 (15.1 billion roubles or \$21.4 billion at the official exchange rate), the USSR would be the largest aid donor.

Faced with the rising cost of aid, declining economic and political returns and competing domestic demands for financial resources, the Soviet Union recently has pushed for the implementation of reform which had been initiated earlier years but had moved very slowly.

More efficiency is now demanded explicitly, both in the Soviet aid administration and in the recipient countries, in particular in the three developing countries that are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) — Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

That was the theme of a conference of ministers and officials organised in Moscow in June 1987 by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. While promising the continuation of economic support, the conference placed considerable emphasis on new forms of joint ventures and direct production and scientific links. Criticism was also expressed about the Soviet aid administration.

During negotiations over the Soviet contribution to Cuba's 1986-90 five-year plan, the USSR insisted on giving priority to the completion of projects already under construction rather than undertaking new ones. It nevertheless promised new credits worth 50 per cent more than those of the period of the previous plan and granted a debt moratorium until 1990.

The new commitment amounts to 2.5 billion roubles, or \$3.5 billion at the official exchange rate, which corresponds to an annual \$70 per capita. While the USSR blames Cuba for slow and inefficient implementation of Soviet-supported projects, Cuban

officials attribute many of the country's current economic problems to the CMEA system of economic management and planning.

Mongolia was promised 50 per cent more in financial support for its 1986-90 five-year plan, i.e. over 3 billion roubles, which represents some \$440 per capita annually. Yet the USSR criticised Mongolia's poor economic performance and pressed for higher output and better quality of the goods produced at enterprises built with Soviet assistance, for better training of local managers and improved cooperation with Soviet experts.

The USSR has also pressed

Vietnam to use the massive flows

of aid more efficiently and to improve its economic performance. Nevertheless, in late 1986 the USSR promised to double its contribution to the 1986-90 plan, to some 8 to 9 billion roubles (about \$2.2 to \$2.5 billion a year, equivalent to \$27-\$30 per capita).

Again, much emphasis was placed on speeding up USSR-aided projects, the importance of producing the largest possible returns and finding rapid solutions to the growing economic problems facing Vietnam. Joint enterprises and production-sharing arrangements, already favoured by the USSR and other CMEA donors during the previous five-year plan period, will be further extended.

The geographic distribution of Soviet aid, which is determined by considerations of foreign policy, the requirements of the Soviet economy and ideological affinity, has always been concentrated on Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

During the 1980s these three countries obtained some three quarters of USSR-bilateral net disbursements.

Most remaining Soviet aid is

directed towards countries which are politically and/or ideologically tied to the USSR: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kampuchea, North Korea, Laos, Mozambique, Nicaragua and South Yemen.

Most of these countries were promised significantly higher financial support up to 1990, but particular emphasis was laid on mutual benefit and adequate economic returns. Furthermore to contain the growing cost of assistance to some of the other priority countries, the USSR encouraged Angola and Mozambique to turn increasingly to Western donors.

Few resources were left for other countries, and aid to many traditional recipients, including Algeria, Iran and Turkey, declined significantly and in several instances became negative (when repayments exceeded new flows).

The only major exception is India which continues to enjoy a privileged relationship, receiving large new frame-credits (general agreements to offer support up to a given amount), both in 1985 and 1986, at particularly favourable terms. Apart from aid for

specific projects, cooperation between the two countries increasingly takes the form of joint enterprises, cooperation with third parties, and the subcontracting to India of parts of projects in other countries which receive Soviet aid.

Economic cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa still appears to pose major problems for the USSR and the other CMEA countries. For example, the five Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa — Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe — stated at a ministerial meeting in 1987 that the Socialist countries did not understand local realities and that the concept of economic cooperation between the two groups of countries had proved inadequate.

Criticism has also been voiced in Nigeria about the political nature of aid from the Soviet Union and the importance of a change in the nature of its aid for Africa. In its aid relations with sub-Saharan countries the Soviet Union is hampered by its inability to engage in grass-roots projects, a difficulty at least partly related to the absence of non-governmental aid organisations in the Soviet Union.

In an effort to rationalise its administration of aid, the Soviet government undertook to reorganise the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations (GKES) and the foreign trade organisations in charge of the implementation of the Soviet aid programme early in 1987. GKES was made responsible for the commissioning of Soviet-built enterprises and for ensuring their efficient operation.

In conjunction with a newly created State Foreign Economic Commission, the GKES had been invited to "submit to the council of ministers proposals to improve the organisation of building Soviet-assisted projects abroad." In January 1988 the GKES was merged with the Foreign Trade Ministry into a new Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, a re-organisation expected to improve the Soviet aid administration.

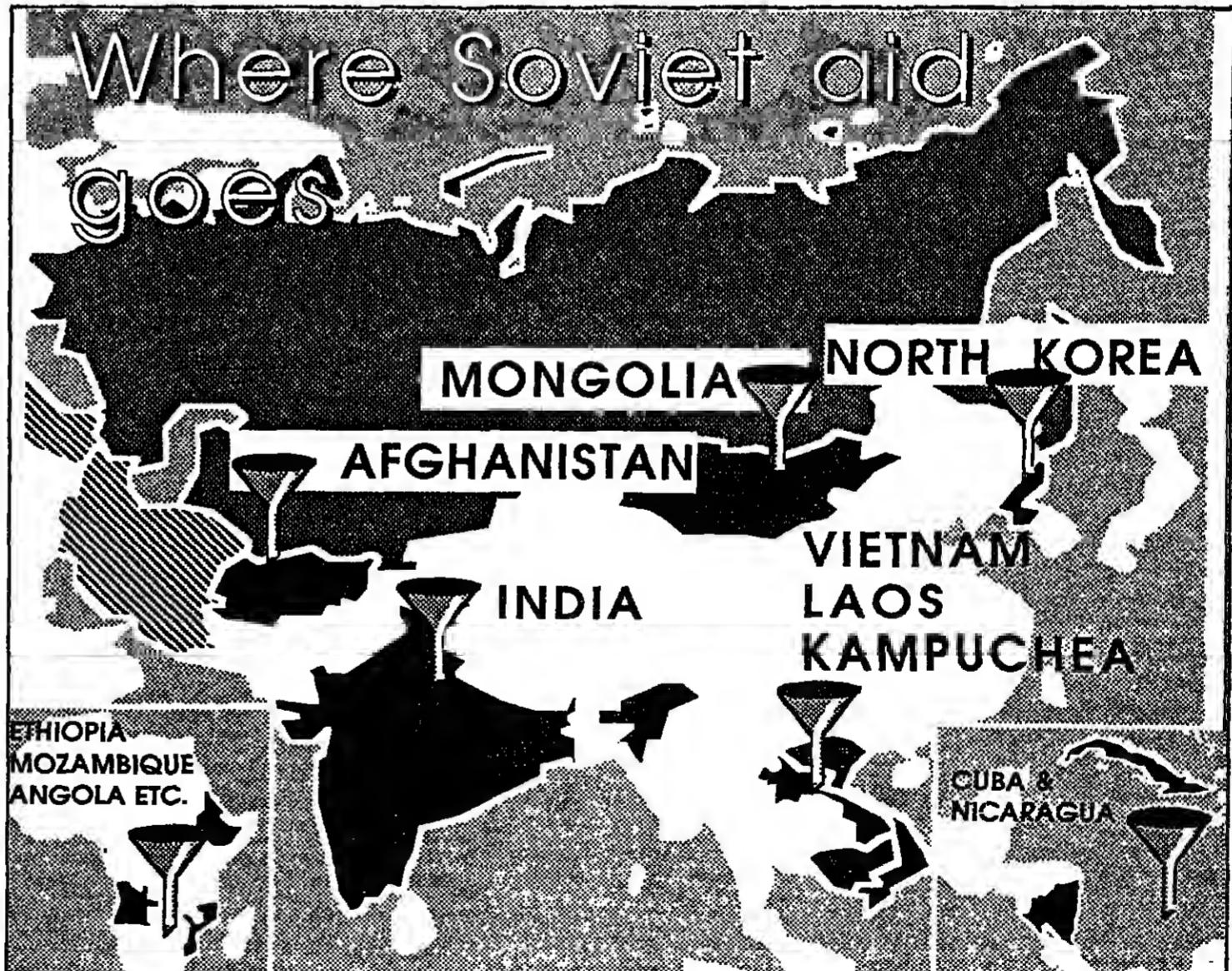
The USSR is increasingly delivering completed projects on a "turnkey" basis, for which it also assumes the initial responsibility for their effective management.

Soviet planning experts, aware that large state farms and irrigation projects do not always suit the requirements of the poorest developing countries, advised Ethiopia to strengthen the private sector and offer material incentives to private farmers. A similar move has been reported for Afghanistan and Guinea.

In order to integrate economic relations with developing countries more closely into the planning process of the Soviet economy, increasing emphasis is being laid on the development of long-term programmes for bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological and trade spheres. At present such long-term programmes have been concluded with 11 developing countries.

Some new developments have occurred in multilateral fora, demonstrating the USSR's desire to participate more closely in world trade and economic relations: in April 1987, for the first time, the Soviet Union sent an observer to the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank, and in July signed the agreement to the UNCTAD Common Fund for Commodities, in which it holds a 5.8 per cent share.

It has, moreover, discharged some outstanding international debts — and has even applied to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In particular, the USSR is paying growing attention to United Nations institutions in which it aims at a higher profile — Academic File.



Vietnamese pullout offer seen as Kampuchean breakthrough

By Joseph De Rienzo
Reuter

BANGKOK — Foreign parties to the Kampuchean conflict appear close to diplomatic settlement but the fight for who will rule the Indochinese state is still far from over, diplomats have said.

Several envoys in Bangkok described as significant an offer by Hanoi to bring home Vietnamese forces by September as part of a settlement that would also end foreign support for Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrillas.

"I'm convinced Peking and Moscow and the other (outside) players have decided to settle, and in a few months could walk away and leave it to the Kampuchean to make peace or slug it

out," said one Western diplomat. China funnels aid to Khmer Rouge guerrillas through Thailand, where the guerrillas take sanctuary and recruit fighters from refugee camps. Western diplomats say.

Kampuchean and Vietnamese leaders announced their offer last Friday at 10th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Kampuchean government after a Cambodian coup in 1970.

The diplomats said the proposal probably resulted from talks on Kampuchea between the Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow in December.

Both Peking and Moscow welcomed the initiative. Moscow, which supports Viet-

nam and Kampuchea, said it opened "the possibility of eliminating the seal of regional tension this very year... Such a chance must not be lost."

The Hanoi-Phnom Penh initiative calls for a pullout of Vietnamese troops by September, a ceasefire and an end to foreign military aid and sanctuary for the three-faction guerrilla alliance, all under international supervision.

Diplomats said the new momentum towards Kampuchean peace could affect the chances of Prince Norodom Sihanouk being included in any settlement.

Diplomats said many hurdles stand in the way of international agreement but that they could be cleared.

Western and many Asian states as someone who could unite the warring factions.

There was no indication Sihanouk had any part in the latest initiative. He said last week the deadlock "could only be broken on the battlefield" and has called for the Phnom Penh government's dissolution.

Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen said recently that a solution of the conflict's international aspects could go ahead without the guerrillas. He called on Indonesia to hold a peace conference of South East Asian nations as scheduled in February despite a guerrilla boycott threat.

Diplomats said many hurdles stand in the way of international agreement but that they could be cleared.

A key element would be talks

between China and Vietnam, which Hanoi has been seeking. Peking recently made a big concession by offering to stop supporting the Khmer Rouge if Hanoi set a withdrawal schedule.

A Thai spokesman called the pullout proposal a positive development. Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila was due to visit Hanoi Monday to discuss Kampuchea.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven said after taking office in August he wanted to change Indochina from a battlefield to a marketplace. He has also invited Hun Sen to Thailand.

The United States, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have sustained the weak non-Communist guerrilla factions of Sihanouk and Son Sann as a counter to Kampuchea and Vietnamese soldiers as well as the Communist Khmer Rouge.

Virtually the entire Khmer Rouge leadership under Pol Pot fled Hanoi's 1976 invasion to sanctuary on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Diplomats expect the secretive movement, blamed by Western governments for at least one million deaths when it ruled from 1975-78, to fight on with or without foreign aid.

Phnom Penh has said it will not accept an international peacekeeping force, calling instead for an international control commission armed only for its own protection.

Vietnam and Phnom Penh say Hanoi's troops will leave by the end of 1990 with or without a settlement.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Clarifications needed

By Salah Abdul Samad

JUST before the latest government reshuffle, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a statement recommending that frozen meat replace the imported fresh meat. No one really knows why this statement was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and not by the Ministry of Supply which is concerned with this issue. Since the statement was published, numerous articles appeared in the local press criticising this plan and clearly pointing out problems it would entail and calling for continued importation of fresh meat as long as the locally produced quantities are not sufficient for the market. After the publication of these articles the Ministry of Supply issued a vague statement indicating that it has not stopped importing fresh meat but failed to refer to the Ministry of Agriculture's plan. It did not support that plan nor did it deny it. And thus the question remains unclarified for the consumers and it has become necessary for the Ministry of Supply to issue a clear cut statement about it and shed light on the present and future policies with regard to meat imports since it is the concerned ministry to do that. Moreover, the Ministry of Supply is called on to issue a clarification about the imported meat providing sufficient assurances about its suitability for consumption in the wake of Europe's decision to stop importing American-produced meat that had been treated with hormones. The members of the public need to know from the ministry that any consignments of imported fresh meat will be coming from safe sources and that they will not be substituted with frozen meat or otherwise to find its way to Jordanian markets now that doubts have been cast about its safety for public health.



Scene from Robert Wilson's latest stage spectacle "The Forest", based on motifs from the Epic of Gilgamesh.
(Photo: INP/Gerhard Kassner)

Theatre of pictures

When one of American-born Robert Wilson's plays was performed in Hamburg a good ten years ago, theatre people and audiences were utterly bewildered. What was happening on stage, plus the exhortation to leave the auditorium and come back later — since the audience wouldn't miss anything anyway — contradicted all visual habits and even the most extreme of theatrical experiences. Even the genre designation "opera" had a provocative quality. When all was said and done, "Einstein in the beach" defied any form of categorisation.

Be that as it may, Robert Wilson's production generated fascination. Theatre as a "pure form", uninterestedly self-sufficient, was known at best on the German stage as "ballet blanc". Wilson, for his part, saw ideal opportunities in the Federal Republic of Germany to stage his theatrical dreams. An increasingly intensive bond developed and proved extremely fruitful.

Robert Wilson was born in Texas in 1941. By profession he is an architect and designer — as well as a healer, painter, performance artist, author, stage director, actor and lots more; an artistic man of many talents who, with the utmost precision, forces elements esthetically together to form weightless, enigmatic pictures of magical beauty. But he doesn't only show them in his own plays. For some time now he has been subjecting the texts of other authors and even classical opera to his pictorial imagination.

Berlin's "Schaubuhne", on Lehiner Platz, was the first theatre to engage him as a producer — which came as something of a surprise to the theatre's regular audiences. Up to that time, the Schaubuhne had been

regarded as a moral institution with socio-critical, indeed, political intentions — and its own specific language. Wilson's biggest project "Civil wars" was to be performed all day as part of the cultural programme for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Parts of the performance were to be shown in Amsterdam, Cologne, Rome and Tokyo. The project failed to materialise, however, because of a lack of financial support. The German part, though, was triumphant success. There was a sort of message behind the magnificent pictures, a fear of man's self-destruction. The Cologne performance made Wilson the guru of the theatre in the Federal Republic of Germany, a much sought-after producer.

Obviously Wilson had realised that his "L'art pour l'art" esthetics, with no fixed purpose in mind, had something optional about it, and he sought association with the GDR dramatist Heiner Müller for "Civil wars". Finally, to everyone's astonishment, he even began to produce plays by this author: first "Hamletmaschine" in New York and Hamburg in 1986, then "Quartett" in Stuttgart in 1987. It seemed as if he wanted to put his work in stays by cooperating with a representative of the most extreme opposite position to his own concept of theatre.

The fusion of two hermetic styles of theatre prompted a fear of an intensification of the enigmatic. This why it was all the more surprising when the opposite happened. In "Hamletmaschine", a radical concentration of the Shakespearean play and its reception in Germany, couched in bitter criticism of the develop-

ment of "existing socialism in real terms", Wilson ritualised the course of events in his own movement-canon. He completely foregoes telling a story and interpreting the text in just the same way as Heiner Müller would. Fourteen young men in casual or elegant dress take up highly stylised positions on the stage to a clicking sound, one after the other: they sit, stand or strike poses. Who is the last actor has taken his place, the scene is modified. The stage turns 45 degrees. The same ceremony begins again, exactly the same. One involuntarily compares it with Pina Bausch's dance theatre in Wuppertal. But Wilson keeps a keen eye on the tolerability of his ideas and the time taken by the scenes. Before patience becomes exhausted, he inserts the text. The latter is likewise deformed, broken up and intensified. The ritual of the actions determines the structure. When this is finished, the stage revolves 45 degrees once more. The sequence of movements starts anew whilst the text continues. Finally, the stage shows the same picture as at the beginning, and a white curtain screens them hermetically — like a fourth wall: the play and performance do not wish to surrender themselves. It has the structure of a musical composition, a variation movement, which suggestively draws one into its spell and even stops the need for "understanding" at verbal level. Wilson succeeds in deciphering Müller's obsessive vision by recoding it in his own visual language. Just as he apparently causes the play to rotate on its own axis, he shows it from all sides without robbing it of its secret.

A year later, in Hamburg once

The occult — a serious business

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Whether they come in the form of occult goods aimed at the teen-age market or as amulets sold at mainstream shrines and temples, lucky charms are a staple of Japanese life — and a profitable business.

Each year tens of millions of Japanese adults flock to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples to buy charms thought to bring luck or ward off nearly any kind of calamity imaginable.

During the three-day New Year's holiday alone, priests at the Tsurugaoka Hachiman shrine in Kamakura, southwest of Tokyo, expect to sell 300,000 lucky arrows, according to Atsushi Takahashi, a shrine spokesman. The arrow is believed to help its bearer take aim and get what he wants.

The New Year's holidays are our busiest season, and we expect nearly 2 million people to visit," Takahashi said.

If all the lucky arrows are sold at \$6 and 16 each, the Shinto shrine will take in more than \$2 million. And arrows are just one of nearly a dozen charms sold at the shrine.

Money made from sales of amulets is considered a contribution, and the shrines and temples pay no tax on the income.

"Sales of charms are what keep many shrines in the black," said a priestess at another Kamakura shrine. "But sometimes I wonder whether people who buy the amulets aren't missing the real point, which is faith in the divine," she said, requesting anonymity.

Tourist maps are sold at the Kamakura train station which show the location of major temples and list the divine favours each one offers — including busi-

ness prosperity, improved eyesight and even the prevention of cancer. Most of the charms are colourful, pocket-sized pouches which contain a talisman or drawing of a deity.

"The popularity of amulets may be due to the abundance of money in Japan and people's desire for material things," said S. Aoki, the business director of Kiyomizu-Dera, a major Buddhist temple in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital.

"But we don't consider that as necessarily bad," he said. "The point is that if they didn't have any faith at all, they wouldn't come here in the first place."

Kazushi Sano of the Association of Shinto Shrines, which supervises 80,000 shrines in Japan, said there are no written rules regarding amulets. But he said his organisation discourages their sale in department stores or other commercial outlets.

"That would be rude to the gods," Sano said.

"It's hard to judge whether the amulets are effective," he said, "because they involve divine powers that people can't always understand."

What the girls are doing is basically the same as what adults do when they buy charms at shrines," Arai said, adding that they may be imitating their parents, who can often be found at shrines during the examination season buying amulets said to help students pass.

Weddings and funerals

The charms can be traced back for centuries, holding an integral part in Japanese religious faith.

Most Japanese at times worship in both Shinto and Buddhist settings, often holding weddings at Shinto Shrines and funerals at Buddhist temples. Having charms from both faiths at one's home is common.

But a recent increase in sales of occult amulets to junior and senior high school girls has raised eyebrows in the mass media.

"We've been flooded by reporters to the past year," said Kazuo Arai, an employee of Tokyo's

The art of Ali Omar Ermes

The Libyan artist, Ali Omar Ermes, reflects the lyrical qualities of the Arab way of life in compositions evocative of the tensions of the modern age. It's a fusion of unusual energy.

By Mary Patrick

LONDON — The tensions and lyricism of an ordinary Arab way of life are reflected in the calligraphic landscapes of the Libyan artist, Ali Omar Ermes. Amid hues of brown, fawn and ochre, the viewer is treated to subtle leaps of turquoise and lapislazuli blue, which seem to convey the essence of Islamic interiors.

The intermingling of the browns and the blues is only a prelude, however, to the viewer's experience, for in the foreground of most of Ermes's multimedia presentations there are large, dramatic and well-hewn letters from the Arabic alphabet — chosen to denote different moods and meanings.

The bold central letters are interlaced with poetic inscriptions, neatly controlled yet flowing, sometimes in stark contrast with the softness of the background and sometimes blending in, with the round shapes and curves of the letters weaving into the patterns of the overall picture.

Ermes was born in Libya in 1945 to Arab parents. He studied in England, and the Western influence can be seen in his abstract works of art. He has also worked as a photographer, which lends a certain discipline to his work. As a painter, however, he draws heavily on his imagination to create extraordinary images of calligraphic landscapes. In his quest for creativity, he says, "the main object is the form of the letter itself." Arabic calligraphy therefore is central to his work.

His latest exhibition, held at the Kufa Gallery in London, conveyed that message. Ermes paints on large pieces of paper, using a wide range of paints and coloured inks and gold powders. His work, he says, stems from ancient traditions of Arabic calligraphy, and uses many of the classic calligraphic styles.

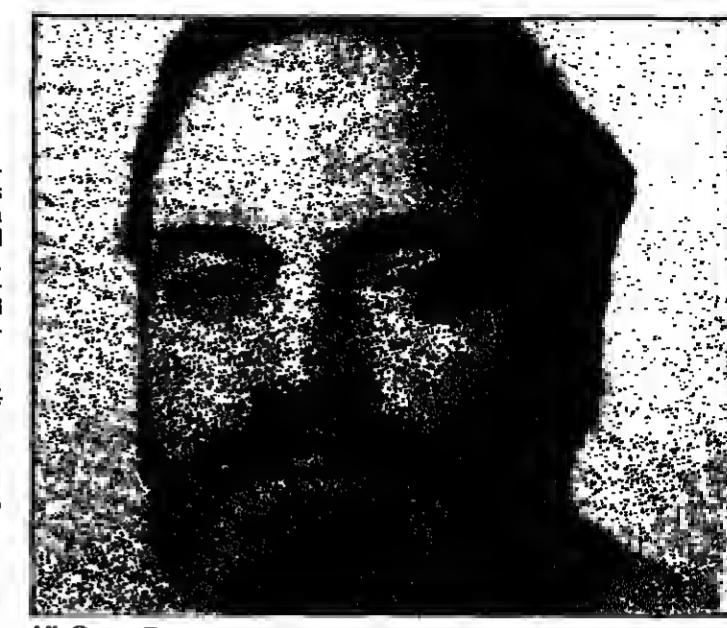
Most of his pictures contain a central letter, which stands out of the background of the picture as a dramatic abstract form. The effect is often three-dimensional and visually stunning. The letters often appear to be detached from the background, suspended in space as a planet or star. In the smaller pictures, the writings seem more involved with the overall design, helping to form the pattern rather than contrasting with it.

He uses gold to highlight or add substance to the central design. The backgrounds are a blend of soft tones, with different shades of blues, pinks or greys, or all the shades of brown, from soft sand to warm tones of wood, or soft sage green and the colours of autumn, speckled with gold. The gold is used sparingly, however, to gently lighten the pastel tones of the background and giving a sense of unity to the picture.

Other works of Ali Omar Ermes evoke warmth, exuded by soft shades of brown which are far from dull and in fact render each image attractive and pleasant.

In one picture, the bold brushstrokes of the central design swirl round and curl with energy, as it appears to re-create itself, generating an aura of energy.

In other paintings, the artist's



Ali Omar Ermes

use of the varying shades and backgrounds gives the impression that the central image is becoming detached, creating a tension, as though the forces of energy were struggling for control of the picture itself.

This could be a reflection of the tensions in the artist himself, the interplay between his Arab North African roots, strong religious and literary background and love of calligraphy (traditionally an art related to the Koran) and his modern self, nurtured on European abstract traditions and their vocabulary of colour, shape and design — not to mention his photographic skills.

The calligraphic writing in Ali Omar's pictures has either literary or spiritual significance. Looking at his pictures, we can see that he says he thinks of his work not as painting, but as literature. It's not surprising.

Werner Schnitzle-Reimpell

A calligraphic composition by Ali Omar Ermes.

Then, to discover that his pictures are often sought for the poetry they contain.

In his pictures he uses writings from Majalla Taleb, in the pictures entitled "The Letter Noon, The Letter Tah and The Letter Hah". Ali Omar quotes verses by Antar Bin Shadad, from the pre-Islamic period, which are beautiful poems about Art and War. In "The Letter Tah", he uses writings by Al Aged Al Farid, on literary criticism.

In "The Letter Hah" the writing is highlighted with gold and tinged with a bright red, adding strength to the letters, which sweep across the canvas in fluid swirls, while the background is balanced by a subtle blend of different hues of brown, gold and blue. But for the calligraphic overlay is evocative of contemporary works of modern art — Academic File.

Werner Schnitzle-Reimpell

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Reagan proposes \$1.15 trillion 1990 budget

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Monday proposed a \$1.15 trillion fiscal 1990 budget for the United States that would increase spending for defence and some domestic programmes while reducing the deficit without raising taxes.

The proposal provides for government revenues of \$1.06 trillion which would bring the deficit to \$92.5 billion. That compares with a deficit of \$161.3 billion during the current fiscal year which ends Sept. 30, and a \$100 billion deficit limit for fiscal 1990 set by law.

Reagan submitted his budget plan just 11 days before he hands the reins of power over to President-elect Bush. Reagan's budget plan already has been dismissed by congressional Democrats who said they want to see Bush's proposals.

Bush has said he will not propose dramatic changes to Reagan's budget after he takes the oath of office Jan. 20 but will modify it with his own priorities.

Bush pledged throughout his presidential campaign to cut the huge U.S. federal budget deficit without raising taxes but even some of his Republican backers have expressed doubts that he can do it.

The Reagan plan in many ways reflects the priorities outlined by Bush in his campaign. The budget plan leaves social security untouched and provides for increases in AIDS research and prevention and drug enforcement and reduces the deficit without new taxes.

In a radio interview Monday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush's

nominee for Office of Management and Budget Director Richard Darman was consulted during the drafting of the budget plan and Bush's team made no changes.

Bush also promised to increase spending for education programmes. The Reagan budget plan provides for a \$200 million increase in education spending, but would do away with 25 Department of Education programmes.

The Reagan budget proposes eliminating a total of 80 federal programmes.

The Reagan plan provides for an increase in defence spending of two per cent above the inflation rate. Reagan proposed a total \$315.2 billion defence budget which includes current year spending and obligations for future spending. Congress approved a \$298.8 billion defence budget in the current fiscal 1989 year.

The Reagan budget assumes that the current economic expansion, now in its 74th month, will continue. The budget assumes that the gross national product (GNP), the total of goods and services produced in the United States, will grow by 3.5 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1988 to the fourth quarter of 1989 and by 3.4 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the end of 1990.

OPEC and non-OPEC members to meet soon

CAIRO (AP) — Members and non-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet at the expert level Jan. 26 in London to discuss ways of cooperating to stabilise the world oil market, OPEC's secretary-general said Monday.

Indonesia's Dr. Subroto also said that OPEC had no confirmation of published reports that the United Arab Emirates was exceeding its production quota, agreed upon at an OPEC meeting last November.

Subroto spoke to reporters after meeting with Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil.

The Indonesian minister, who arrived in Cairo Sunday night, is touring non-OPEC oil-producing countries, and already has visited Colombia and Mexico. He is to depart Wednesday for Oman.

"I am also here to discuss the situation in the oil market and what OPEC and non-OPEC (na-

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, was forecast to rise by 3.6 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1988 to the end of 1989 and by 3.5 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the end of 1990.

Reagan's deficit numbers rely in large part on continued economic expansion.

If the GNP is one percentage point lower in fiscal 1990, then government tax receipts would drop by \$6.7 billion and spending would be \$1.9 billion higher, the budget document said.

If the lower growth continued, the deficit would be \$83 billion higher than originally projected for 1994, the budget document said.

If Congress enacts all of Reagan's budget proposals, an outcome that is highly unlikely, the federal budget would enjoy a

\$2.4 billion surplus in fiscal 1993, the document said.

Reagan proposed an 18 per cent reduction in agriculture spending, a proposal that already has been criticised by farm groups.

The outgoing president also proposed spending \$64 billion through 1994 for bailing out failing savings and loan institutions. That includes \$16 billion for the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp (FSLIC) in the current fiscal 1989 and \$9 billion in fiscal 1990, the budget document said.

The president, in his message to Congress, said the secretary of treasury will soon submit a detailed plan on the savings and loan bailout to Bush.

The budget also provides for \$18 billion to be spent for nuclear weapons facilities cleanup and modernisation through 1994.

Reagan said that as part of his efforts to return government enterprises to private hands he is

proposing the sale of the Naval Petroleum Reserves, the Alaska Power Administration and the Southeastern Power Administration.

Reagan also included in his fiscal 1990 budget plan changes to the budget process some of which already have been rejected by Congress.

Those include an amendment to the constitution that would require a balanced federal budget and a law that would give the president the power to reject individual items in appropriations bills.

He also asked that Congress adopt a biennial budget process, an idea that is gaining some support in Congress. Currently, the administration proposes and Congress enacts spending bills for the various government programmes each year.

Dollar rally continues

LONDON (R) — The dollar hit its highest level for nearly three months against the Deutsche mark Monday as investors risked central bank intervention and bought the American currency on hopes of higher U.S. interest rates.

Key European bourses firmed after Tokyo shares soared to record highs despite the death of Emperor Hirohito Saturday. The yen was steady, contrary to expectations that it would fall along with Japanese stocks after the emperor, who was 87 and had been bedridden since September, died.

Gold was fixed in London at a 2½ month low of \$404.45 an ounce Monday. The flight from precious metals to dollars had started in the United States Friday.

The dollar broke through 1.83 marks in Europe Monday morning, sharply higher than 1.8125 marks at the close Friday. Its highest level

against the yen was 126.75 compared with 126.60 at Friday's finish.

The U.S. currency was fixed in Frankfurt at 1.8308 and the West German Bundesbank sold \$49.2 million at the fixing.

In Tokyo, Mitsubishi Bank Ltd said its new market-oriented

short-term prime rate would be set at 4.25 per cent from Jan. 23. The current prime is 3.375 per cent, but the rise was below market expectations, dealers said.

A new year dollar rally was boosted Friday by better than expected U.S. employment data for December from Washington. That indicated U.S. economic strength and left intact the possibility of higher interest rates.

Tensions between Libya and the United States and a statement by Bundesbank Vice-President Helmut Schlesinger that he saw no signs of the dollar weakening also helped underpin the dollar.

The Bundesbank and the U.S. Federal Reserve sold dollars Friday on the open market but the central bank intervention failed to halt the U.S. currency's New Year's rise.

"The question is how concerned are they to stop the dollar?" asked Urs Bollinger of Swiss Bank Corporation. He noted market confusion over the Bundesbank's policy towards the dollar.

Dealers were troubled by the apparent about-turn in Bundesbank policy signalled by Schlesinger Friday.

Delors stresses necessity for European central bank

PARIS (R) — Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said Sunday that a West European central bank and monetary union were necessary but were a step beyond the European Community's (EC's) aims of a single market by 1992.

Many economists saw it as the number one stumbling block to 1992, with Bonn most concerned to see guarantees of autonomy for a common central bank and London wary of losing political sovereignty.

Paris, whose Bank of France is subservient to the finance ministry, has backed away from plans for providing the central bank with an autonomous statute and resisted German demands for autonomy for an EC central body.

The commission is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Community business and the executive body which proposes all new EC legislation.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Monday, Jan. 9, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	481.0	483.0	482.6
Pound Sterling	858.1	862.4	866.6
Deutschmark	265.8	267.1	274.8
Swiss franc	311.9	313.5	362.8
French franc	77.9	78.3	127.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	381.7	382.6	
Dutch guilder	235.4	236.6	
Italian lira (for 100)	77.4	78.2	
Belgian franc	126.8	127.4	

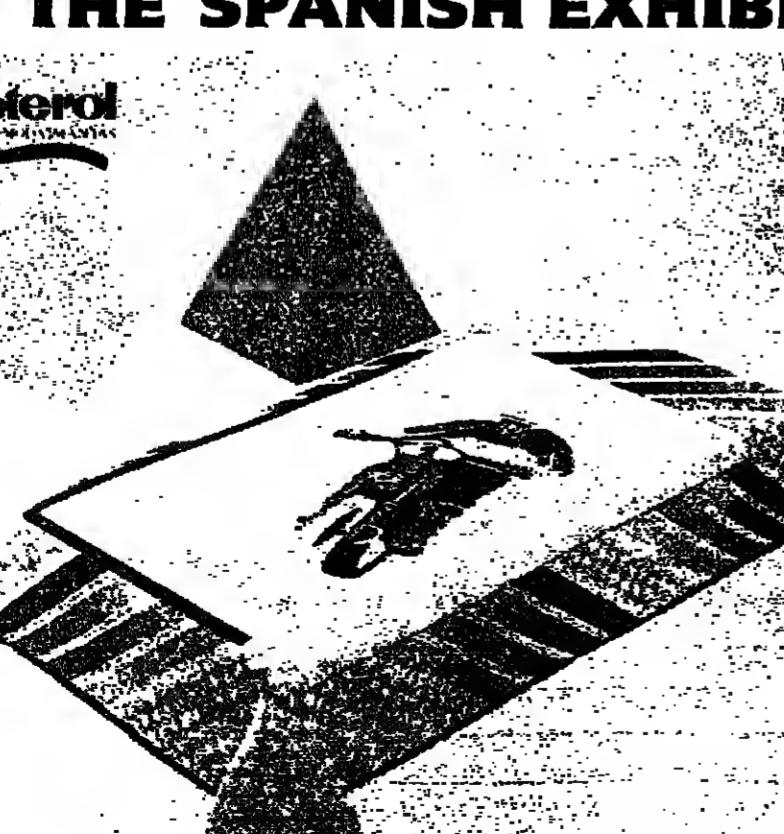
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.7638/48	U.S. dollar	1.7638/48
One U.S. dollar	1.1960/70	Canadian dollar	1.1960/70
1.8290/8300	2.0650/60	Deutschmarks	2.0650/60
2.0650/60	1.5595/5605	Dutch guilders	1.5595/5605
1.5595/5605	38.33/36	Swiss francs	38.33/36
38.33/36	6.2350/2400	Belgian francs	6.2350/2400
6.2350/2400	1341/1342	French francs	1341/1342
1341/1342	126.60/70	Italian lire	126.60/70
126.60/70	6.2600/50	Japanese yen	6.2600/50
6.2600/50	6.6870/6920	Swedish crowns	6.6870/6920
6.6870/6920	7.0590/0640	Norwegian crowns	7.0590/0640
7.0590/0640	403.30/405.80	Danish crowns	403.30/405.80
One ounce of gold	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Institutional trading dominated a share market buoyed by economic optimism overseas. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 9.8 at 1,488.2.	
TOKYO — Prices soared to close at a record high in heavy trading, surprising investors who expected a downturn and self-restraint on the first business day since Emperor Hirohito's death Saturday. The Nikkei Index rose 468.85 to 30,678.39.	
HONG KONG — Mild profit-taking in the afternoon depressed prices slightly but the Hang Seng Index rose 25.62 to close at 2,792.27, a post-crash high.	
SINGAPORE — Prices rose sharply across the board in active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 29.65 to 1,072.99, its highest level since Aug. 25.	
BOMBAY — Prices rebounded sharply to close with big gains after the exchange authorities halved purchase margins and raised sales margins by a half.	
FRANKFURT — Shares closed just above their lows as profit-taking whittled away sharp gains at the start of the session. The Dax Index rose 6.57 to 1,366.55.	
ZURICH — Prices closed slightly firmer across the board in moderate trading. The Swiss Index rose 2.5 to 964.9.	
PARIS — Shares mostly held or extended opening gains but a drop in luxury goods group LVMH helped keep the 50-share bourse indicator in a limited range.	
LONDON — Shares were steady but off their highs in afternoon business after profit-taking and a lacklustre early showing on Wall Street. The FTSE 100 at 1546 GMT was 20.4 at 1,831.7.	
NEW YORK — Stocks showed a small overall gain by mid-morning but blue chips were almost unchanged. The Dow was little changed at 2,154.	

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 1989 7

Schneider keeps winning

ZURICH (R) — Swiss double Olympic champion Vreni Schneider, winner of an unprecedented eight successive technical events in the women's World Cup season so far, regards skiing as a hobby and fights shy of her superstar image.

The 24-year-old daughter of a shoemaker from Elm, a hamlet in the mountains of Glarus east of Zurich, preserved her unbeaten slalom and giant slalom record Sunday, when she completed a rare treble by winning a slalom in Mellau, Austria.

Schneider had already overhauled the prestigious mark for a winning sequence in technical events set by former team-mate Erika Hess, winner of six slaloms in a row in 1981, with her second giant slalom win in two days Saturday.

Apart from four special and four giant slaloms, she has also won a combination this season for a total of nine wins, leaving only Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell's record of 11 in 1973 to aim at.

The modest Schneider, who was almost forced to give up skiing when her mother's death from cancer in 1980 left her in charge of a young family, is amazed at the stir her winning run has caused.

"I train hard and I enjoy skiing and racing," she said. "Competition is still fun for me; it's a hobby, not a job."

With a total of 22 victories, Schneider lies sixth in the ranks of the all-time greats of women's World Cup history.

Hess, who retired in 1987 to get married, won 31 World Cup events in her 10-year career and Moser-Proell, the Austrian su-

perstar who retired in 1980 at the age of 27 after her Olympic down-hill triumph, won 62 events in 12 years on the circuit.

Schneider has raced regularly in the World Cup since December 1984 and celebrated her first win in only her fourth race.

In 1987 she grabbed her first gold medal in the world championship giant slalom at Crans-Montana and in 1988 she became skiing's fifth double Olympic champion when she clinched the slalom and giant slalom titles in Calgary.

A serious crash in the Aspen downhill last March in which she tore knee ligaments prevented her from winning her first overall title last season. But this year she already has almost twice as many World Cup points as her nearest rival, Austrian Ulrike Maier.

The world championships opening in Vail, Colorado, at the end of this month could yield yet another record.

"Vreneli," as the Swiss call her, will be bidding for four titles, slalom, giant slalom, super-giant slalom and combined. No woman's skier has won more than three at the same championships.

Schneider, whose favourite pastimes are listening to Swiss country music and long mountain hikes, is almost embarrassed by the image of her as a sports star in some Swiss newspapers.

She feels she gets too much credit for her successes her trainer Jan Tischbauer is constantly impressed by her dedication.

"When she competes, she is not afraid of losing, she just tries her best to be as fast as possible. She accepts very well the fact that another racer can be faster than her," he said.

Bills beat themselves up

CINCINNATI (R) — The Buffalo Bills, reeling from a defeat to the Cincinnati Bengals that kept them out of the Super Bowl, brawled among themselves following the American Football Conference (AFC) final Sunday. The Bills' bickering turned physical after offensive tackle Joe Devlin cursed at cornerback Derrick Burroughs, who had been ejected from the game after committing a costly penalty that led to Cincinnati's last touchdown. Devlin rushed at Burroughs and was physically restrained by defensive back Errol Tucker. Other members of the team joined in the pushing, shoving and cursing and the room was cleared of all media less than five minutes after the game.

Worldbeating waterpolo coach resigns

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav water polo coach Ratko Rudic, who has led the national team to two Olympic titles and a world championship in the past five years, has resigned. "I'm tired of my highly-stressed life as national team coach," Rudic told Reuters Monday. "I want to rest a bit and maybe in the future I shall come back," he said. Rudic, 40, led Yugoslavia to Olympic gold in Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988 and the world title in Madrid in 1986. He was capped 290 times as a player in the 1970s and became national coach in 1984. Rudic said he planned to return to coach Partizan Belgrade, 16 times national champions and the club he played for before becoming a coach.

Coe makes British team for Europe

LONDON (R) — Twice Olympic 1,500 metres champion Sebastian Coe, omitted from the British team for last year's Seoul Olympics, has been selected to run in the European Indoor Athletics Championships in the Hague, Netherlands, on Feb. 18-19. Coe, 32, is among 13 British athletes pre-selected for the championships along with Olympic silver medallists Linford Christie and Colin Jackson. He will compete in the 800 metres, the distance at which he still holds the world outdoor record. Coe, Olympic 1,500 metres gold medallist in 1980 and 1984 and European 800 metres champion, plans one further year on the grand prix circuit before retiring to concentrate on a career in politics. Christie, second in the Seoul 100 metres, will take part in the 60 and 200-metres while Jackson will team up with fellow Olympic finalist Tony Jarrett in the high hurdles.

Giant-killing Sutton drawn against Norwich

LONDON (R) — Minor-league Sutton United were handed a second F.A. cup giant-killing chance Monday when they were drawn again against high-flying first division side Norwich City in the fourth round. Sutton, whose 2-1 home win over 1987 cup winners Coventry proved the sensation of Saturday's third round, travel to Norwich's Carrow road home for the Jan. 28 tie. Holders Wimbleton visit Aston Villa and favourites Liverpool go to Millwall in two all-first division confrontations. Sutton manager Barrie Williams was delighted with the draw, which pitched his side of part-timers against the club that led the first division for more than three months until New Year's Eve. "The fantasy continues," he said. "We always said the F.A. Cup was unreal but this is going beyond the realms of possibility. We regard it as an experience that we look forward to once again. It is just part and parcel of everyday life now. There is a little touch of unreality about it but that is what the cup is always about."

The best East can do is win the jack of hearts and shift to a diamond. Declarer counters by rising with the ace, cashing ace-king of clubs and ruffing a club high. After cashing the king of trumps and crossing to the ace, declarer ruffs another club high to set up a long club in dummy.

After drawing the last trump, declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and discards his losing diamond on the established club. Now that wasn't too difficult, was it?

Home is sweet for Knicks and LA Lakers

NEW YORK (AP) — "Home sweet home" is an adage the New York Knicks and the Los Angeles Lakers can really get into.

In the only National Basketball Association games Sunday, the Knicks walloped the Los Angeles Clippers 134-100 for their 11th straight victory at Madison Square Garden in New York. And the Lakers pounded the San Antonio Spurs 126-96 at the forum in Los Angeles, where they are 13-0 and the only team still unbeaten at home this season.

New York, which now is 14-1 at home, with the one loss coming at the hands of the Lakers, had lost its previous two games.

"We have it in our mind that we don't want to lose another game at home, the rest of the year," Johnny Newman said.

Newman, breaking out of an eight-game scoring slump, hit for 22 of his points in the Knicks' 80-point second half as New York took a six-point halftime lead into a blowout.

The Lakers, who also have struggled on the road this season — with a 9-11 record and seven straight losses — got 16 points, 17 assists and eight rebounds from Magic Johnson against the Spurs to keep their home record perfect.

The Lakers will carry a seven-game road losing streak — their longest since an eight-game slide in 1975 — to Sacramento on Tuesday night.

"Somewhere, this has to stop," Los Angeles coach Pat Riley said.

"We've had some bad breaks on the road, but we don't want to have all that hanging over our heads when we go to Sacramento."

European soccer

Napoli, Juventus boost challenge to Internazionale

Champions AC Milan continued their disappointing form, losing away to Cesena 1-0 on a cold day and a slightly foggy pitch. Swedish winger Hans Holmqvist put away the winner in the 66th minute from a cross by Massimo Agostini.

Dutch striker Ruud Gullit, who has spent much of this season off the field with an ankle injury, had several chances in the second half but failed to finish.

Benito Sanchez made it 2-1 for Elche with a header only minutes later but could not stop Real midfielder Martin Vasquez equalising.

Real coach Leo Beenhakker, sensing that victory was in sight, pulled off veteran back Jose Camacho and midfielder Michel and put two wingers in their place, Losada and Paco Llorente.

But Elche still looked like they might steal a point from the champions before Sanchez rounded.

Real stay two points clear of Barcelona, who defeated Cadiz 3-0 after a hesitant start.

Midfielder Eusebio Sacristan scored six minutes after the interval with a swerving shot from 30 metres. Julio Salinas hit the second and Jose Bakero completed the rout with another powerful curving shot 10 minutes from time.

Valencia moved third after holding Real Betis 0-0 while Sevilla slipped to fourth by losing 1-0 at Celta Saturday.

Atletico Madrid, coached by Britain's Ron Atkinson, had a frustrating day, drawing 1-1 at Real Murcia.

Their Brazilian star Baltazar De Morais had a 14th minute penalty saved by Lorenzo Amador. Tomas Renones put Atletico ahead after the interval but Murcia's Salvador Mejias equalised six minutes later.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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DON'T FLOG A DEAD HORSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

* A 2
* A Q 3
* J 7 5
* K 8 6 4 3

WEST

* S 7 4
* 10 8 6 5
* K 10 9 2
* 10 5

EAST

* 5
* K 9 4
* 8 6 4 3
* Q J 9 7

SOUTH

* K Q J 10 9 6 3
* 7 2
* Q A 6
* A 2

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 * Pass: 2 * Pass:

3 * Pass: 4 * Dbl:

4 NT: Pass: 5 * Pass:

5 NT: Pass: 6 * Pass:

6 * Pass: Pass: Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

There is sometimes an excuse for taking the second-best line. (You could be following a hunch.) To do so when you have been told that it is going to fail is the height of miscalculation.

North-South conducted an intelligent auction to reach a good slam. Once North could sue-rid hearts, South used Blackwood and settled in a small slam when he learned that two kings were missing.

In response to his partner's double of North's heart cue-bid, West led his fourth-best card in the suit. Declarer inserted the queen, East won and continued the suit to force out the ace. Now declarer had to hope that clubs were 3-3 and trumps 2-2, or that East held the king of diamonds. Neither expectation materialized, so declarer went down one trick.

Even had he not been warned that the king of hearts was infide, declarer had a better line available than a finesse. All he needed was a club break no worse than 4-2. To utilize the club suit, declarer needed two entries to dummy. To preserve the ace of hearts as an entry, declarer should play low from dummy to the first trick!

The best East can do is win the jack of hearts and shift to a diamond. Declarer counters by rising with the ace, cashing ace-king of clubs and ruffing a club high. After cashing the king of trumps and crossing to the ace, declarer ruffs another club high to set up a long club in dummy.

After drawing the last trump, declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and discards his losing diamond on the established club. Now that wasn't too difficult, was it?

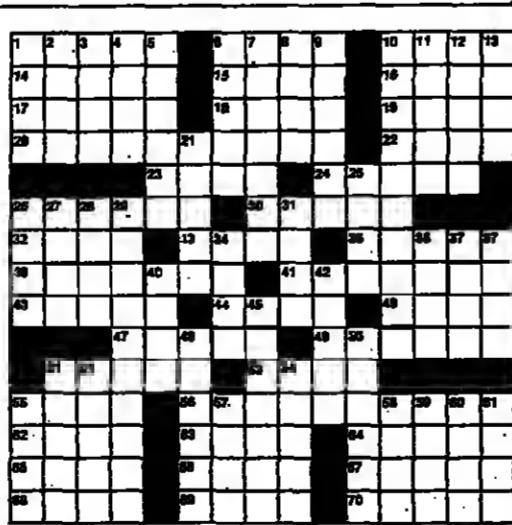
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declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and discards his losing diamond on the established club. Now that wasn't too difficult, was it?

HOROSCOPE

NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray



Saturday's Puzzle Solved:
CROSSWORD
 1 News source?
 2 Type of excuse
 3 Sheath
 4 Of the shore
 5 Russ. saint
 6 Word of sorrow
 7 Cries
 8 Most recent
 9 Moves slowly
 10 Poem source
 11 Word of
 12 Risky
 13 Purchase
 14 Incline
 15 Vortex
 16 First place
 17 Resident of Arak
 18 Most recent
 19 Moves slowly
 20 Poem source
 21 Word of sorrow
 22 Risky
 23 Purchase
 24 Incline
 25 Vortex
 26 First place
 27 Resident of Arak
 28 Most recent
 29 Moves slowly
 30 Poem source
 31 Word of sorrow
 32 Risky
 33 Purchase
 34 Incline
 35 Vortex
 36 First place
 37 Resident of Arak
 38 Poem source
 39 Word of sorrow
 40 At this place
 41 Spade and Club
 42 Horse material
 43 Chart
 44 Poplars
 45 Yemen port
 46 Grow dim
 47 Close
 48 Upper crust
 49 Frank Herbert
 50 Chivalrous one
 51 Quaint
 52 Chivalrous one
 53 Chivalrous one
 54 Series of rows
 55 "When I was a child"
 56 Virginia willow
 57 Chukker game
 58 Surprised
 59 Getting
 60 Yale
 61 Ramon
 62 A Jackson
 63 Rolt.
 64 "When I was a child"
 65 "When I was a child"
 66 "When I was a child"
 67 "When I was a child"
 68 "When I was a child"
 69 "When I was a child"
 70 Gift getter
 DOWN
 1 Where Anna went
 2 Fever
 3 Foot
 4 Yemen port
 5 Grow dim
 6 Close
 7 Upper crust
 8 Frank Herbert
 9 Chivalrous one
 10 Quaint
 11 "When I was a child"
 12 Horse material
 13 Chart
 14 Poplars
 15 Yemen port
 16 Grow dim
 17 Close
 18 Upper crust
 19 Frank Herbert
 20 Chivalrous one
 21 Quaint
 22 "When I was a child"
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 24 Chart
 25 Poplars
 26 Yemen port
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 66 "When I was a child"
 67 "When I was a child"
 68 "When I was a child"
 69 "When I was a child"
 70 "When I was a child"

Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



World News

Communist rebels consider peace talks

Philippine renegade on the run

ZAMBOANGA CITY (AP) — President Corazon Aquino said Monday the leader of rebel Muslim police who seized a military garrison and killed a general may have escaped.

A woman also claimed the renegade leader, patrolman Rizal Alib, held her and eight companions hostage briefly Sunday, one day after troops recaptured the regional headquarters of the Philippine constabulary. But a military spokesman disputed the woman's claim.

At least 21 people were killed before government troops, backed by helicopter gunships and tanks, recaptured the garrison late Saturday after two days of fighting.

On Monday, officials said they had identified the bodies of Brigadier-General Eduardo Batalla and Colonel Romeo Abendan, who were held hostage during the takeover. Seven others also had been identified, but none was Alib.

"From the facts so far available, the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is unable to say that Alib may be among those casualties," Aquino told reporters in Manila. "It has ordered an all-out search for those who may have escaped through the cordon."

The military launched attacks

Friday after learning that Batalla and Abendan had been slain by their captors. No prisoners were taken, the military said.

Rose Laurente, a major's wife, said Alib and four of his men commandeered her vehicle early Sunday, forced her and eight companions to drive into town and then left them unharmed.

But military spokesman Lt.-Col. Anthony Elias disputed the claim and said the woman's husband, Major Romeo Laurente, was a business partner of Alib.

"We do not buy that story because we have no proof that he escaped," Elias said. "The reason why so many people here want to make you believe that Alib is alive is so that his syndicate of extortion, which is widespread, can still be continued by some of his men."

Military authorities imposed an indefinite nighttime curfew in Zamboanga, which has a mixed Christian-Muslim population. There are about five million Muslims among the Philippines' 59 million people.

Alib was acquitted in the November 1984 slaying of Mayor

Cesar Climaco. But three weeks after Climaco's death, seven people were killed when marines raided Alib's home, and he still faced murder charges in those deaths.

Last month, Batalla received permission to arrest Alib. Military officials also claim Alib was ringleader of an extortion gang.

On Sunday, Aquino warned that police corruption was undermining respect for law and order.

Zain Jali, spiritual adviser of the Muslim rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), warned the siege and subsequent fighting may inflame sectarian tension.

"The line seems to be since a general was killed, there is now justification to kill all Muslims," Jali told the Philippine Daily Globe.

The front is the largest of three groups that have been waging a nearly 20-year-old struggle for an independent Islamic state in the south. This month, congress is to debate a bill to grant self-rule to Muslim areas in the south.

In Manila, Aquino said widespread corruption among the nation's police was undermining respect for law and order.

"It is said that the citizen's respect for the law depends to a great degree on the perceived credibility of lawmen," she said.

result of the election.

Premadasa, the incumbent prime minister, won the Dec. 19 poll with 50.43 per cent of the votes against Bandaranaike's 44.95 per cent.

Voting was marred by killings of two senior election officials and supporters of political parties and attacks on polling centres.

Officials said only 55 per cent of the 9.4 million voters cast their ballots because the Marxist People's Liberation Front had

threatened to kill those who voted.

There has been a voter turnout of more than 75 per cent at previous elections, they said.

Police blamed the polling day attacks on the front, a southern-based group of young radical Sinhalese trying to overthrow the government.

Bandaranaike, who is also contesting Feb. 15 parliamentary elections, said in a 38-page petition that a majority of voters

were or may have been prevented from electing the candidate they preferred.

Her petition gave details of nearly 100 instances of alleged violations of election laws.

No date has been set for the inquiry.

The opposition leader said before the election that Premadasa would benefit from a low poll, particularly in the South where Bandaranaike enjoys wide support.

Angola and Cuba are surrounding the departure of the

conscious of the heavy sacrifices borne by the people as a result of this "total war" policy, the NDF declares its willingness to again explore with all sincerely interested parties the possibility of a comprehensive settlement of the political, economic, social and military issues underlying the armed conflict," it said.

The offer was made in an editorial in the December issue of Liberation, published by the outlawed National Democratic Front (NDF). Copies of the publication were made available to news organisations Monday.

In the editorial, the front said

the government's "total war" against the unjust war against the masses of our people must be defeated." It accused the government of "wanton destruction of lives and property all over the country."

Havana first sent regular troops to Angola in 1975 to help the newly-installed Marxist government repel a two-pronged invasion of South African forces from the south and western-backed rebels and mercenaries from the north.

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so we are going home happy," Cuban General Raul Menendez Tomasevich told reporters.

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The remainder of the 50,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola will be withdrawn in stages by mid-1991 under the terms of peace accords signed by Angola, Cuba and South Africa in December which also include independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

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